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U.S. Forest Facts

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Metric units

Introduction

The forest lands of the United States are of vital importance to the Nation's economy. They provide the timber and minerals that are the basic raw materials for the products used to build, furnish, and heat our homes, factories, and offices and to make paper and paper-board products, containers, and hundreds of other items. In this brochure, facts about forests, forest products, and the National Forest System in the United States, as well as a brief overview of world forests and forest products, are presented in a concise format.

Important Terms

Forest land—Land at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, including land that formerly had such tree cover and that will be naturally or artificially regenerated.

Growing-stock volume—Live trees of commercial species meeting specified standards of quality or vigor. Cull trees are excluded. Includes only trees 12.7 centimeters in diameter or larger at 1.4 meters above ground.

Mortality—The volume of sound wood in trees that died from natural causes during a specified year.

National Forest System—A system of federally owned units of forest, range, and related land consisting of National Forests, Purchase Units, National Grasslands, and Other Lands, waters, and interest in lands, which are administered by the Forest Service or designated for administration through the Forest Service.

Net annual growth—The net increase in the volume of trees during a specified year. Components include the increment in net volume of trees at the beginning of the specific year surviving to its end, plus the net volume of trees reaching the minimum size class during the year, minus the net volume of trees that died or that became cull trees during the year.

Other forest land—Forest land other than timberland and reserved timberland. It includes unproductive forest land, which is incapable of producing annually 1.4 cubic meters per hectare of industrial wood under natural conditions.

Receipts—Money collected from Forest Service operations such as timber sales, grazing and recreation fees, and mineral leases and permits.

Removals—The net volume of trees removed from inventory during a specified year by harvesting, cultural operations such as timber stand improvement, land clearing, or changes in land use.

Sawtimber volume—Live trees of commercial species containing at least one 3.7-meter sawlog or two noncontiguous 2.4-meter logs, and meeting regional specifications for freedom from defect. Softwood trees must be at least 22.9 centimeters in diameter, and hardwood trees must be at least 27.9 centimeters in diameter at 1.4 meters above ground.

Stumpage—Uncut marketable timber.

Timberland—Forest land that is producing or is capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization by statute or administrative regulation. Timberland has the capability of producing in excess of 1.4 cubic meters per hectare per year of industrial wood in natural stands.

Land Area

	U.S.	North	South	West
Land classification (million hectares)				
Total land area	913.5	245.5	216.1	451.9
Forest land	294.6	68.7	80.9	145.0
Timberland	195.5	64.1	79.1	52.4
Other	99.1	4.6	1.8	92.6
Nonforest land	619.0	176.8	135.2	306.9
Timberland ownership (million hectares)				
Total public and private	195.5	64.1	79.1	52.4
Public	55.0	13.0	8.0	34.0
Federal	39.1	4.8	6.4	27.9
National Forest	34.2	4.2	4.8	25.5
Bureau of Land				
Management	2.2	*	*	2.2
Other	2.4	.6	1.7	.2
State	10.8	5.4	1.2	4.2
County and municipal	2.8	2.3	.3	.2
Indian	2.3	.4	*	1.8
Private	140.5	51.0	71.1	18.3
Forest industry	28.5	6.8	15.5	6.2
Farmer	39.3	15.3	19.7	4.3
Other	72.7	28.9	35.9	7.8

* Less than 50,000 hectares.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Past, present, and future trends in the U.S. timber sector: 1952-2040. Gen. Tech. Rep. Washington, DC; In process. (Preliminary data; data as of January 1, 1987.)

Timber Volume

	U.S.	North	South	West
Inventories^a (million cubic meters)				
Growing stock	21,376.9	5,392.1	6,740.4	9,244.5
Softwoods	12,742.0	1,396.4	2,939.3	8,406.3
Hardwoods	8,635.0	3,995.7	3,801.1	838.1
Sawtimber	12,789.3	2,133.7	3,430.0	7,225.7
Softwoods	9,177.6	600.4	1,722.0	6,855.2
Hardwoods	3,611.7	1,533.3	1,707.9	370.5
Net annual growth, removals, and mortality^a (million cubic meters)				
Growing stock				
Growth	633.9	158.5	295.3	180.1
Softwoods	360.6	37.8	165.6	157.2
Hardwoods	273.3	120.7	129.7	22.9
Removals	482.5	77.9	246.3	158.3
Softwoods	336.0	21.3	162.6	152.1
Hardwoods	146.6	56.6	83.7	6.2
Mortality	129.9	35.6	48.9	45.4
Softwoods	77.1	10.6	25.2	41.3
Hardwoods	52.8	25.0	23.7	4.1

^a Volume on timberland.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Past, present, and future trends in the U.S. timber sector: 1952-2040. Gen. Tech. Rep. Washington, DC: In process. (Preliminary data. Inventories as of January 1, 1987; net annual growth, removals, and mortality, 1986.)



*Includes Alaska and Hawaii

National Forest System

	1987	1986	1985
National Forest System lands^a (thousand hectares)	93,169	93,082	93,071
National Forests	90,503	90,419	90,408
Grasslands	1,707	1,707	1,707
Purchase Units	844	843	843
Other areas	114	114	114
Timber cut^b			
Volume (million cubic meters)	58.5	54.8	51.4
Commercial sales ^c	57.6	53.4	49.6
Free use	.9	1.4	1.8
Value (million \$)	1,019.0	789.9	724.5
Commercial sales ^{c,d}	1,016.0	786.9	720.6
Free use	1.1	1.4	2.2
Misc. forest products	1.9	1.6	1.7
Receipts (million \$)	898.4	831.7	635.9
Timber use	807.9	745.1	514.6
Grazing use	8.1	8.6	9.0
Recreation use	30.6	30.3	30.8
Mineral leases and permits	46.7	42.9	77.5
Special land use, etc.	5.1	4.8	4.0
No. of livestock actually grazed (thousand)			
Cattle, horses, and burros	1,410	1,491	1,565
Sheep and goats	1,134	1,168	1,183
Recreation use (million visitor-days^e)	238.5	226.5	225.4
Camping, picnicking, and swimming	68.1	66.8	66.1
Mechanized travel and viewing scenery	75.8	62.9	60.8
Hiking, horseback riding, and water travel	20.4	25.0	25.5
Winter sports	15.2	14.7	16.2
Resorts, cabins, and organization camps	14.8	15.1	14.4
Hunting	15.7	15.3	14.6
Fishing	16.2	15.2	15.8
Other ^f	12.3	11.5	11.9

^a Gross area within unit boundaries. "Other areas" includes Land Utilization Projects, Research and Experimental Areas, and other areas.

^b Includes other products harvested on National Forests. "Miscellaneous forest products" includes material not measurable in cubic meters (Christmas trees, tanbark, turpentine, seedlings, Spanish moss, etc.).

^c Commercial and cost sales and land exchanges.

^d Includes collections for forest restoration or improvement under the Knutson-Vandenberg Act, 1930.

^e One visitor-day is a 12-hour aggregate of recreational use of National Forest land or water.

^f Includes nature study, team sports, gathering forest products, attending talks and programs, and other uses.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

Forest Industries

	No. of establish- ments	No. of employees (thousands)	Wages and salaries (million \$)
Establishments, employees, and wages			
Total forest industries	45,401	1,456.1	24,931.9
Logging camps	11,658	80.9	1,207.9
Wood industries	27,368	770.3	10,790.8
Sawmills and planing mills	7,403	157.8	2,305.9
Plywood and veneer mills	556	52.7	908.3
Millwork and kitchen cabinets	5,285	100.4	1,502.3
Wood furniture and fixtures	5,943	255.9	3,180.3
Other ^a	8,181	203.5	2,894.0
Pulp, paper, and allied industries	6,375	604.9	12,933.2
Pulp, paper, and board mills	594	204.9	5,470.2
Paper and paperboard products	5,781	400.0	7,463.0

	Value added by manufacture (million \$)	Value of shipments (million \$)
Value of products		
Total forest industries	55,019.8	136,386.1
Logging camps	2,501.9	8,274.0
Wood industries	19,162.9	48,265.8
Sawmills and planing mills	3,747.9	11,132.4
Plywood and veneer mills	1,272.8	4,525.9
Millwork and kitchen cabinets	2,856.8	6,309.0
Wood furniture and fixtures	6,288.5	11,722.6
Other ^a	4,996.9	14,575.9
Pulp, paper, and allied industries	33,355.0	79,846.3
Pulp, paper, and board mills	13,965.9	34,002.2
Paper and paperboard products	19,389.1	45,844.1

^a Includes industries producing wooden containers, pallets, particle-board, prefabricated wood buildings, gum and wood chemicals, and other wood products.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1982 Census of manufactures. 1985.

Roundwood Production, Trade, and Consumption

	1986	1985	1984
Product (million cubic meters ^a)			
Industrial roundwood			
Total			
Production	392.3	354.6	360.6
Softwoods	300.3	274.6	277.4
Hardwoods	92.0	80.0	83.1
Imports	123.5	122.9	118.0
Exports	65.3	58.6	58.3
Consumption	450.6	418.9	420.2
Softwoods	360.6	339.0	339.1
Hardwoods	89.9	80.0	81.2
Lumber			
Production	185.4	160.4	163.4
Imports	64.6	66.3	60.3
Exports	10.8	8.7	9.6
Consumption	239.2	218.0	214.1
Plywood and veneer			
Production	42.7	40.3	39.7
Imports	5.2	4.7	4.2
Exports	1.9	1.1	1.3
Consumption	46.0	43.8	42.5
Pulp products			
Production	128.7	117.9	123.3
Imports ^b	53.2	51.3	52.7
Exports ^b	30.7	26.1	26.3
Consumption	151.3	143.2	149.7
Logs			
Imports	.4	.5	.8
Exports	17.6	18.6	17.0
Pulpwood chips			
Exports	4.2	4.1	4.1
Other products ^{c,d}	13.7	13.4	13.1
Fuelwood ^d	116.2	115.5	111.0

^a Roundwood equivalent (the volume of logs or other round products required to produce lumber, plywood, woodpulp, paper, or other similar products).

^b Includes pulpwood and the pulpwood equivalent of woodpulp, and paper and board.

^c Includes cooperage logs, poles and piling, fence posts, hewn ties, round mine timbers, box bolts, excelsior bolts, chemical wood, shingle bolts, and miscellaneous items.

^d Production and consumption.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

Production of Selected Timber Products

	1986	1985	1984
Lumber (million cubic meters)	99.1	86.0	87.5
Softwoods	82.2	71.9	72.7
Hardwoods	17.0	14.1	14.8
Plywood (million cubic meters)	18.8	17.8	17.5
Softwoods	18.0	17.1	16.7
Hardwoods	.8	.7	.8
Particleboard and medium-density fiberboard (million cubic meters)	8.0	7.3	7.1
Particleboard	6.5	6.0	5.9
Medium-density fiberboard	1.5	1.2	1.2
Hardboard ^a (million cubic meters)	1.5	1.6	1.6
Pulpwood (million cubic meters)	206.4	193.0	202.3
Round	126.3	115.7	121.0
Softwoods	78.0	73.0	76.8
Hardwoods	48.3	42.7	44.2
Chips	80.1	77.3	81.3
Woodpulp (million metric tons)	55.3	52.3	52.4
Paper and board (million metric tons)	65.9	62.4	63.7
Newsprint	5.1	4.9	5.0
Other paper ^b	27.7	26.6	26.8
Paperboard ^c	32.3	30.1	31.0
Insulating board	.9	.9	.9

^a Shipments.

^b Includes building paper.

^c Includes wet machine board.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, reporting data compiled by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, the American Paper Institute, and the National Particleboard Association.

Imports and Exports

	Imports ^a				Exports			
	Volume		Value ^b (million \$)		Volume		Value ^c (million \$)	
	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986
Total all products	—	—	15,268	13,271	—	—	9,940	7,692
	(thousand cubic meters)				(thousand cubic meters)			
Logs	374	356	22	11	18,611	16,432	1,644	1,227
Softwoods	311	236	19	7	17,935	15,803	1,526	1,129
Hardwoods	63	119	3	4	676	629	118	97
Lumber	35,952	34,501	3,333	3,138	7,687	5,727	1,349	994
Softwoods	34,680	33,628	3,055	2,966	5,814	4,431	856	644
Hardwoods	1,206	819	273	168	1,829	1,241	487	344
Railroad ties	66	54	5	3	44	55	6	6
Veneer	371	351	159	130	287	255	128	97
Softwoods	109	101	17	16	101	121	16	15
Hardwoods	262	250	142	115	186	134	112	82
Plywood	1,844	1,772	638	519	749	573	194	145
Softwoods	127	116	39	34	704	527	179	131
Hardwoods	1,717	1,655	598	485	45	46	15	13
Particleboard	1,074	985	150	137	335	254	54	34
Hardboard	245	253	63	56	79	54	35	24
Pulpwood	945	1,390	17	24	4,450	4,302	189	172
Round	34	134	2	5	36	93	1	2
Chips	911	1,256	15	20	4,414	4,209	188	170
	(thousand metric tons)				(thousand metric tons)			
Woodpulp	4,502	4,168	2,069	1,606	4,416	4,046	2,250	1,663
Paper and board	11,646	10,831	6,928	6,038	4,812	4,369	3,104	2,549
Newsprint	8,153	7,791	4,121	3,682	308	356	210	195
Other paper and board	3,129	2,685	1,874	1,565	3,846	3,537	2,070	1,669
Paper and board products	364	355	933	790	658	476	823	686
Other wood products ^d	—	—	1,890	1,613	—	—	992	787

^a Imports for consumption.

^b Customs value which is generally defined as the price actually paid or payable for merchandise when sold for exportation to the United States, excluding U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges.

^c Value (free alongside ship) at U.S. ports of export, based on the transaction price, including inland freight, insurance, and other charges.

^d Includes poles and piling, fuelwood, wood charcoal, cork, waste paper, wood containers, wood doors, and other miscellaneous products.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, and the American Paper Institute.

Prices

	1987	1986	1985
Stumpage prices^a (\$ per cubic meter)			
All species	27.90	21.50	17.00
All softwoods	28.20	21.80	17.20
Douglas-fir ^b	42.00	35.50	27.90
Southern pine ^c	30.00	22.90	20.00
Ponderosa pine ^{d,e}	47.20	34.60	22.40
Western hemlock ^f	23.30	16.50	11.10
All hardwoods	19.00	14.90	14.00
All eastern hardwoods ^g	19.40	15.40	14.40
Oak, white, red, and black ^g	32.40	23.90	20.90
Log prices^h (\$ per cubic meter)			
Sawlogs			
Southern pine ⁱ	44.50	38.90	41.10
Gums ⁱ	31.70	31.80	32.80
Oaks ⁱ	37.80	35.30	34.50
Aspen, woodsrun ⁱ	24.00	21.60	20.90
Maple, woodsrun ⁱ	33.70	38.10	36.40
Yellow birch, woodsrun ⁱ	31.20	35.90	37.30
Veneer logs			
Aspen, prime and No. 1 ^j	49.00	34.00	33.00
Maple (hard), prime and No. 1 ^j	65.00	65.00	62.00
Yellow birch, prime and No. 1 ^j	75.00	75.00	68.00
Walnut ^k	420.00	443.00	347.00
White oak ^k	269.00	264.00	260.00
Pulpwood logs			
Southern pine ^l	22.90	21.80	22.30
Hardwoods ^l	20.50	16.00	17.00
Pine ^m	21.80	24.80	24.80
Aspen ^m	15.60	17.00	17.00

^a Average prices for sawtimber sold on National Forests. High bid prices.

^b Western Washington and western Oregon.

^c Southern Region.

^d Pacific Southwest Region.

^e Includes Jeffrey pine.

^f Pacific Northwest Region.

^g Eastern and Southern Regions.

^h Delivered prices.

ⁱ Louisiana.

^j Wisconsin.

^k Illinois. F.o.b.

^l Louisiana. F.o.b. car.

^m Wisconsin.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, the University of Wisconsin, and the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

World Forestry Data

	All species			Soft- woods	Hard- woods
	Total	Closed ^a	Other		
Forest area, 1980 (million hectares)					
Total	4,320.5	2,948.3	1,372.2	1,463.6	2,856.9
North America					
United States					
States	298.1	195.3	102.8	157.9	140.2
Canada	436.4	264.1	172.3	350.2	86.2
Mexico	47.8	47.8	—	20.5	27.4
Central America					
America	24.8	24.4	.3	4.5	20.2
South America ^b					
America ^b	915.0	667.0	248.0	20.5	894.5
Africa	743.7	235.9	507.8	13.9	729.8
Europe	158.9	137.0	21.9	98.0	60.9
U.S.S.R.	928.6	791.6	137.0	679.9	248.7
Asia	468.2	361.8	106.4	102.2	366.0
Oceania	298.9	223.4	75.5	16.0	283.0

	Production	Imports	Exports
Industrial roundwood,^c 1985 (million cubic meters)			
Total	1,502.0	109.3	105.3
North America			
United States			
United States	346.6	2.4	21.3
Canada	165.1	4.6	4.6
Mexico	7.5	*	—
Central America ^b			
Central America ^b	3.6	.1	*
South America			
South America	83.1	.2	1.3
Africa	54.3	1.0	4.5
Europe	293.3	38.8	25.5
U.S.S.R.	275.4	.3	16.8
Asia	245.3	61.9	21.9
Oceania	27.9	*	9.4

^a Forest land with 20 percent or more tree crown cover.

^b Includes the West Indies.

^c Includes sawlogs and veneer logs, pitprops (mine timbers), pulpwood, and other industrial products.

* Less than 50,000 cubic meters.

Note: Data may not add to totals because of rounding.

Sources: United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization. Forest resources 1980. 1985; 1985 Yearbook of forest products. 1986.

